

the Administrator or as provided in this Subpart.

§ 54.409 Consumer qualification for Lifeline.

(a) To qualify to receive Lifeline service in states that provide state Lifeline service support, a consumer must meet the criteria established by the state commission. The state commission shall establish narrowly targeted qualification criteria that are based solely on income or factors directly related to income.

(b) To qualify to receive Lifeline in states that do not provide state Lifeline support, a consumer must participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid; food stamps; Supplemental Security Income; federal public housing assistance; or Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. In states not providing state Lifeline support, each carrier offering Lifeline service to a consumer must obtain that consumer's signature on a document certifying under penalty of perjury that consumer receives benefits from one of the programs mentioned in this paragraph and identifying the program or programs from which that consumer receives benefits. On the same document, a qualifying low-income consumer also must agree to notify the carrier if that consumer ceases to participate in the program or programs.

§ 54.411 Link Up program defined.

(a) For purposes of this subpart, the term "Link Up" shall describe the following assistance program for qualifying low-income consumers, which an eligible telecommunications carrier shall offer as part of its obligation set forth in §§ 54.101(a)(9) and 54.101(b):

(1) A reduction in the carrier's customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for a single telecommunications connection at a consumer's principal place of residence. The reduction shall be half of the customary charge or \$30.00, whichever is less; and

(2) A deferred schedule for payment of the charges assessed for commencing service, for which the consumer does not pay interest. The interest charges not assessed to the consumer shall be for connection charges of up to \$200.00

that are deferred for a period not to exceed one year. Charges assessed for commencing service include any charges that the carrier customarily assesses to connect subscribers to the network. These charges do not include any permissible security deposit requirements.

(b) A qualifying low-income consumer may choose one or both of the programs set forth in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) A carrier's Link Up program shall allow a consumer to receive the benefit of the Link Up program for a second or subsequent time only for a principal place of residence with an address different from the residence address at which the Link Up assistance was provided previously.

§ 54.413 Reimbursement for revenue forgone in offering a Link Up program.

(a) Eligible telecommunications carriers may receive universal service support reimbursement for the revenue they forgo in reducing their customary charge for commencing telecommunications service and for providing a deferred schedule for payment of the charges assessed for commencing service for which the consumer does not pay interest, in conformity with § 54.411.

(b) In order to receive universal service support reimbursement for providing Link Up, eligible telecommunications carriers must keep accurate records of the revenues they forgo in reducing their customary charge for commencing telecommunications service and for providing a deferred schedule for payment of the charges assessed for commencing service for which the consumer does not pay interest, in conformity with § 54.411. Such records shall be kept in the form directed by the Administrator and provided to the Administrator at intervals as directed by the Administrator or as provided in this subpart. The forgone revenues for which the eligible telecommunications carrier may receive reimbursement shall include only the difference between the carrier's customary connection or interest charges and the charges actually assessed to the participating low-income consumer.